RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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FOR MEMBERS

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

TO ALL RETIRED PERSONNEL OF THE MILITARY SERVICES OF THE UNITED STATES:

On this, my first Christmas as the Secretary of Defense, it gives me great pleasure to extend hearty and sincere greetings to all Service personnel, active and retired.

To those now retired, I wish to add my appreciation for their generous measure of service towards the preservation of those traditions which make America a strong, united nation.

May the true spirit of Christmas attend each of you and your families during the coming holiday season and throughout the New Year.

Louis Johnson

RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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Season's Greetings

To all of Our Members and Their Families go the Very Best Wishes of the President, Directors and Staff of the Association for a Most Joyous Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

THE ASSOCIATION COMES OF AGE
1929—1950

Mark Twain in his "Autobiography," observed that if a true picture of the life of just an ordinary person could be preserved, we would have an immortal book.

What is true of a human life is doubly true of an organization, for an organization is many lives.

This year the Retired Officers Association celebrates its twenty-first anniversary—twenty-one years dedicated to a much needed and worthwhile service to retired officers, their dependents and survivors. Based upon the sound and mature judgment of those who formed our Association in 1929, it was determined that if retired officers were to achieve full recognition of their rights, they should—and must—join together for mutual benefit. Passing of the years has not changed the correctness of that concept in the slightest.

Suppose we could have a record of each of those twenty-one years, of the problems, of the changes, of the improvements—that, too, would be a story worth preserving between covers.

But in a word the story of those first twenty-one years can be simply told. It can be told in one word. The word is . . . improvement.

A celebrated newspaper editor once had a saying that he repeated to everyone he met. "There is no hope for the satisfied man," is what he said.

Here at National Headquarters we have never been satisfied. We have what might be termed "divine discontent," always seeking a means to improve, always striving to improve, improve, improve.

Resulting from the above is constant improvement in methods and procedures to bring about the benefits and privileges to which retired officers, their dependents and survivors are properly entitled, as well as to effect correction of the inadvertent inequities which creep into the laws, rules and regulations governing retired status.

We are constantly striving also to improve the scope and substance of information disseminated to members through the Bulletin. We are firmly resolved that each following edition shall be so styled as to arouse greater reader interest. Each succeeding issue, therefore, must be—it will be—better.

So long as we continue working with that as our philosophy, we feel there is no danger of our not meeting to the fullest our stated mission of:

(a) Expansion of services rendered to members and their dependents in supplying information and assistance to their many problems.

(b) Maintaining close liaison with official agencies, veterans' associations and others interested in national defense affairs.

(c) Placing before the Congress and appropriate Government agencies, in a proper manner, the views and desires of retired personnel.

(d) Representation of members and their survivors before the Veterans Administration.

(e) Fostering of fraternal relations among retired officers of all the uniformed services.

(f) Publishing a Bulletin containing information of great interest and concern to retired officers, which would not reach them by official distribution.

(g) All possible effort to expand our membership to include the greatest percentage of the retired lists, regular and reserve, contributing to the prestige of the Association by their membership, to its maintenance by their financial support, and to their own benefit by the enlarged services the Association may thus render them and their dependents.

THE CAREER COMPENSATION ACT OF 1949

H.R. 5007, the bill which embodied the provisions of the instant Act, passed the Senate on 26 September 1949 and was made Public Law 351 (81st Congress—1st Session) by Presidential approval on 12 October 1949.

Except for the addition of three amendments which were accepted on the floor of the Senate, those portions of the Act in its final form as relating to retired officers remained as we had previously reported. The three amendments referred to and their positions in the printed Act are as follows:

Johnson amendment #1, page 21—delete former sec. 402 (i) and substitute:

"(i) All members of the Reserve components heretofore or hereafter retired or granted retirement pay because of physical disability shall be entitled to the same pay rights, benefits and privileges provided by law or regulation for retired members of the regular services."

Johnson amendment #2—add new proviso at end of sec. 402 (a):

"PROVIDED FURTHER, that any disability shown to have been incurred in line of duty during a period of active service in time of war or national emergency shall be considered to be the proximate result of the performance of duty."

Butler amendment, page 26—add new sec. 415:

"Any member who, on the effective date of this Act, is a hospital patient and who within 6 months of the effective date of this Act, is retired as a result of a physical disability growing out of the injury or disease for which he was hospitalized as of the date of the enactment of this Act, may elect to receive benefits computed under the laws in effect on the date preceding the date of the enactment of this Act."

Those amendments above noted are generally self-explanatory, with the possible exception of Johnson amendment #1. The principal effect of that amendment is to extend to retired personnel of the Reserve components the opportunity to receive, within the limit of available personnel and facilities, dispensary, dental and hospital treatment at existing medical units of the service from which retired; the privilege of becoming eligible, within allotted quotas, to make service store and commissary purchases; eligibility in service operated officers' clubs where vacancies exist; and any other available benefits.

A first step in the operation of the Act, the major provisions of which became effective 1 October 1949, was the adjustment of active duty accounts to the newly established rates of pay and allowances. For the most part, that step was accomplished early in November.

Next in order is the adjustment of retired pay accounts for those whose retirements were based upon reasons other than physical disability, where increases in pay are indicated by the new scales. Processing of this second step will be completed automatically as rapidly as can be managed by personnel available to make such adjustments.

Finally will come the handling of the most complex part of the problem, that of adjusting accounts for those heretofore retired by reason of physical disability, as prescribed in Title IV of the Act. All departments are presently engaged in the preparation of necessary regulations to implement that title. An Executive Order has been prepared, as required by the Act, delegating to the various Secretaries concerned the authority to administer the reevaluation of retirements based upon physical disability. Because of the many technical angles involved, as well as the desire to clarify as many of those points as possible before any regulations are promulgated that might create future difficulties, that Executive Order is being subjected to minute scrutiny by the various departments and the Bureau of the Budget, and the Comptroller General has been asked for interpretations regarding a few of the unclear features of the Act.

The best interests of those concerned requires that determinations in this particular be made carefully and in such manner as will reflect the intended purpose of the Act, as well as to do justice to those individuals affected thereby.

As previously stated, all departments are giving full attention to drafting the necessary regulations governing physical disability cases of those retired prior to the effective date of the Act.

No definite date is available on our publication deadline for this issue (1 December 1949) as to when that task might be completed, although every effort is being made to have the necessary procedures established to start the actual processing of individual cases as soon as practicable after the first of the new year.

Meanwhile, Army and Air Force personnel heretofore retired for physical disability, who believe themselves entitled to increased retirement pay under the Act, have been invited to address inquiries to the respective headquarters, furnishing full name, last grade or rank held and serial number. Army personnel should write the Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington 25, D. C. Air Force personnel should write the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, Attention: Director of Military Personnel, U.S. Air Force, Washington 25, D. C.

On the other hand, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast & Geodetic Survey, and Public Health Service personnel have been requested not to write, but await further instructions.

It will be apparent that those courses which the various departments are to follow in setting up new rates of retirement pay for those heretofore retired on account of physical disability and who elect to qualify, cannot be determined until after a most thorough estimate of the entire situation. Therefore, those concerned should await the departments' solutions most advantageous to the interests of those in such status.

For personnel retired for physical disability prior to 1 October 1949, the Act provides the following three options: (1) they will be allowed to retain their present retired pay based upon present rates, such retired pay to be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes, in which case no action by them is necessary; (2) they will be allowed to qualify on application to have their retired pay based upon the new rates multiplied by the degree of physical disability as of date of last retirement, established under standards applicable to laws administered by the Veterans Administration, but determined by the department under which they hold retired status, such retired pay to be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes; or (3) they will be allowed to qualify upon application to have their retired pay computed on the basis of 2½ per cent for each year of service (not to exceed 75 per cent), the degree of disability existing at the time of retirement to be established as under (2), but in this case only that portion of the retired pay to which the individual would have been entitled had he elected to proceed as under (2) will be excluded from gross income for income tax purposes.

The departments will notify each individual who requests such information as to the degree of disability and the amount of compensation he would receive under the new law based upon the degree of his disability. After the receipt of such information, it will be for each individual to determine whether he will elect to continue to receive his retirement pay under the old law, request the receipt of retired pay under the new law based upon the degree of disability thus established, or elect to have his pay computed on the basis of years

of service x 2½ per cent x the basic pay for one of his rank and length of service. It will thus be seen that determinations will depend upon the circumstances in each case and must be made by the individual himself after the receipt of the information concerning his degree of disability from the department under which he holds retired status. Whatever the procedures are to be, we have been informed by the various departments concerned that complete information and instructions will be mailed to all personnel retired for physical disability when the regulations have been completed.

The determination as to degree of disability is a technical medical question which must be determined by medical boards which are now in the process of being instructed as to the standards of disability applied by the Veterans Administration. Until such boards have considered individual cases, it would be impossible to predict what the finding might be in a given case. Consequently, it is manifestly impossible for anyone to indicate to any individual the probable outcome of the determination in this respect.

With regard to the question of whether an individual will profit by electing to have his retired pay computed on the basis of the third option, it should be noted that only full-time military service on active duty may be counted to establish the years of service to be applied in the formula as the percentage multiple, counting more than one-half a year of service as a full year. Thus, if one has served 21 years and more than 6 months of active duty, he may use 22 years in the formula to reach his computation. The basic pay to be used in the formula, as provided in section 511 of the Act, is the pay which the individual would be entitled to receive if serving on active duty.

Distributions of warrant officers in the several pay grades prescribed in the Act have been made by the various Secretaries concerned for their respective services as indicated in the following table:

ACTIVE DUTY PAY GRADES

SERVICE	W-4	W-3	W-2	W-1
ARMY	CWOs now designated to receive 4th pay period	All CWO masters & chief engineers, Army Mine Planter Service	All WOJG 1st mates & 1st asst engrs AMPS	All other WOJG incl 2nd mates & 2nd asst engrs AMPS
NAVY*	CWOs having 12 or more yrs creditable commission serv	CWOs having 6 but less than 12 yrs commission serv	CWOs having less than 6 yrs commission serv	All WOs
AIR FORCE	For the time being all CWOs are assigned pay grade W-2 and WOJGs are assigned pay grade W-1. Further reassignments of CWOs to pay grades W-4 and W-3 will be made on the basis of selections to be later announced.			
MARINE CORPS	Same as for Navy			
COAST GUARD**	Not to exceed 7% of no. CWOs on active duty with over 12 yrs creditable commission serv	Not to exceed 30% of no. CWOs on active duty with over 6 yrs creditable commission serv	All CWOs not incl in W-4 & W-3 with over 6 yrs creditable commission serv; all WOs with over 6 yrs creditable serv	All WOs not incl in W-2

NOTE: *-Navy—provisions do not apply to retired CWOs advanced to such grade pursuant to the Act of 7 May 1932.
**-Coast Guard—CWOs and WOs now on the retired list or hereafter retired shall be carried on retired list list in pay grade in which serving unless entitled to higher pay by other provision of law.

The consensus among the various departments, on the basis of information presently available, is that those chief warrant officers and warrant officers heretofore retired will be designated in the classification under the Act comparable to the pay period in which serving at time of retirement and paid according to that scale.

LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

We herewith report a brief outline of legislative items of great concern to all retired officers pending before Congress which may be considered by the 2nd Session, 81st Congress, together with other legislative items of no less interest which may also be considered at that time.

Appropriate action with respect to each subject discussed will be taken by our Association in accordance with its established policy for the handling of such procedures.

DUAL EMPLOYMENT; DUAL COMPENSATION—The subject of legislation on dual employment and dual compensation has been fully covered in previous issues of the Bulletin. More recent developments were covered in our 4th Quarter 1949 edition, page 15.

Two bills relating to this subject are now before the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. S. 2351 which passed the Senate on 29 July 1949 has been referred to that House Committee. Subsequently, on 10 October 1949 the Chairman of that Committee, Rep. Murray, introduced H.R. 6356 which is substantially similar to the Senate bill.

Since both of those bills were introduced upon recommendations by the Departments and with Budget approval, it seems clear they will be taken up in the next session of Congress. Both of these bills in effect would repeal all former laws and reenact legislation covering the whole subject. That would permit all those who were retired as the result of combat wounds to be employed by the Government and to

receive both their retired pay and the pay of a civilian Federal office. The proposed legislation would also authorize all those retired either for physical disability or for other reasons to elect between the receipt of the retired pay or the pay of civilian Federal employment, whichever is greater. Where the amount of the retired pay is less than $5,000, the proposal would be to limit the total compensation from both offices to the sum of $5,000.

Our Association participated in recommendations for initial action in this field when our then President, Admiral Sellers, wrote a letter to Secretary of the Navy Forrestal, asking that this important subject be considered so that the Government would be enabled to avail itself of the valuable services of many trained officers who would otherwise not be available; also that the individuals would not be unnecessarily barred from opportunity to work for the Federal Government in a civilian capacity. At that time Secretary of the Navy Forrestal informed our Association that he had referred the matter to the Office of Industrial Relations, which appears to have been the beginning of a consideration which resulted in the submission of this important matter to the Congress. The Association has asked the Committee to be heard. We feel that the $5,000 limitation is not realistic in view of the prevailing economic situation. The salary limitation should, therefore, either be completely eliminated from the bill or, if retained, raised to a figure more in keeping with existing monetary values.

When legislation to standardize dual employment and dual compensation has been passed, it will remove further all present restrictions and discriminations applying to nurses, including that which has resulted from former legislation as recently construed by the Comptroller General in his decision B-86844 of 17 August 1949, with regard to the application of the dual compensation laws to nurses retired prior to the effective date of the Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947. In other words, all nurses will then have the same opportunities with regard to dual employment and dual compensation as any other types of uniformed personnel.

The Association has made careful study of the pending bills and will support their passage with suggested amendments to raise the limitation of combined amounts received as compensation for retired pay and from a civilian position with the Government, together with other clarifying provisions.

PENSION BENEFITS FOR WIDOWS—We strongly favor the enactment of legislation which will liberalize present restrictions upon the receipt of pension, in certain cases, by widows and children of veterans. Numerous bills have been introduced to accomplish that purpose. Existing law, which prohibits the receipts of pension by widows and children of veterans of World War I and World War II whose income is in excess of $1,000 per annum, is far from realistic in the light of present-day economic conditions. No such restriction exists with regard to the widows of those who served in the Spanish-American and former wars.

One of the bills which has received consideration in Congress is H.R. 4617, which was passed by the House on 1 June 1949 and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. That bill proposes to raise the limit from $1,000 to $1,200. In our opinion that does not constitute a sufficient increase. Either the limitation should be removed or fixed at a more reasonable figure.

The Association has requested opportunity to be heard by the Senate Finance Committee, at which time we shall urge acceptance of that view, so as to assure some prospect of adequate relief to surviving widows and children of retired personnel.

CADET-MIDSHIPMAN SERVICE—Under this heading there are three closely connected bills for consideration.

First is the general crediting of cadet, midshipman and aviation cadet service for pay purposes. That question was considered during hearings on what is now the Career Compensation Act of 1949, but was not included therein, although there was a fairly general recognition of the merit of crediting that service along with all of the other service for which credit is extended in sec. 202 (a) (1) of the Act. The logical basis to support the inclusion of that service for pay purposes remains unchanged. Consequently, the Association proposes to continue in its efforts to have existing pay laws amended so as to achieve that purpose. Pending legislation on this subject is embodied in S. 631 before the Senate Armed Services Committee and H.R. 978 before the House Armed Services Committee.

In view of the enactment of the Career Compensation Act of 1949, the pending bills will require revision to provide for amending that Act. The exclusion of this one class of service from the new comprehensive pay Act glaringly accentuates the injustice of perpetuating a discrimination against those who performed such full-time military service. The Association will do its utmost to have that single omission corrected by appropriate insertion in the new Act.

A second related bill before the House Veterans Committee is H.R. 5269 which, if enacted, will credit cadet and midshipman service during the periods 13 August 1898 to 5 July 1902 and 6 April 1917 to 12 November 1918, on the same basis as is now provided by law for those who performed similar service in World War II, for the purpose of laws administered by the Veterans Administration. We see no reason why different treatment should be accorded veterans of earlier wars with respect to veterans benefits based upon precisely the same type of service. That pending legislation proposes to provide war service pension rates for the widows of many who performed the type of service mentioned. The Association will likewise strongly support the enactment of that measure.

The third subject, relating to the inclusion of midshipman service is contained in the bill H.R. 6186, pending before the House Armed Services Committee. It proposes to credit midshipman service prior to 1913 for purposes of retirement pay to which officers of the Naval reserve may be entitled under any provision of law. The instant bill proposes to remove a discrimination in the failure to permit the crediting of midshipman service toward retired pay of former midshipmen who now hold retired status as officers of the Naval reserve. On the basis of its merit, that measure will also receive Association support.

Because of the basic merit of crediting service as a cadet, midshipman or aviation cadet, and by way of comparison to the crediting of other service less full-time in nature and no more military, it is hoped that this matter will be resolved in favor of crediting the instant service for all purposes which, in the opinion of the Association, should be done.

PAY LOSSES UNDER ECONOMY LAWS—S. 1119, introduced by Sen. Jenner, proposes to authorize settlement for certain inequitable losses in pay sustained by officers of the commissioned services under the emergency economy legislation of 1932-1933. That bill would empower the Comptroller General of the United States to pay to commissioned officers or former commissioned officers of any of the services named in the Pay Readjustment Act of 1922, a sum equal to the difference between the actual amount of pay and allowances received by such persons under such Act, for the period 1 July 1932 to 30 June 1934, and the amount of pay and allowances such persons would have received had sec. 201 of the 1932 Economy Act not been in effect during such period. As indicated in the previous issue of the Bulletin, that measure was referred to the Department of Defense for study and recommendation.

As the result of an interpretation of sec. 201 of the 1932 Economy Act, certain groups of military personnel who received promotions in rank and proportionate increases in responsibility as a result of such promotions were deprived of

any increases in pay on the theory that those promotions were automatic increases within the contemplation of sec. 201 of that Act. In that respect those military officers who were thus affected were discriminated against as compared to civilian employees of the Government who were granted increases in pay for comparable promotions under the same law. Both military and civilan employees did lose the small periodic longevity increases in pay upon completing a prescribed length of service and both suffered the 15% reduction in pay imposed by the economy legislation. The discrimination against military officers becomes all the more apparent in the interpretation of the economy laws when one considers that promotions of officer personnel required careful selection, passing of required examinations to establish professional fitness and Senate confirmation before the promotions became effective. Thus, as the result of the interpretation of the section in question, certain groups of officers were deprived of a portion of the compensation which was justly due them over their careers as the result of military service to the United States Government. When the effect of the provision of sec. 201 was removed from the military services in 1934, after it had been in effect for two years, during which time the losses were incurred, the Committee out of which the recommendation for the modification of the law came, and the same Committee which made the report on the original law, pointed out that the interpretation as applied to the military by the Comptroller General's decision was an effect which the Committee had not intended. Although more than 16 years have elapsed since this unintended injustice was developed, it is felt that the Congress will, when it properly understands the situation, move to rectify the same by restoring the appropriate amounts to those so affected.

PARITY IN RETIRED PAY FOR OFFICERS RETIRED PRIOR TO 1 JUNE 1942 WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR I—S.577, introduced by Sen. McFarland, was referred by the Senate Armed Services Committee to the Department of Defense for comment. A similar bill, H.R. 3266, is pending before the House Armed Services Committee. The Navy Department, on behalf of the Department of Defense, requested that no action be taken on the bill pending final consideration of the Career Compensation Act of 1949. Since that Act has now become law, the department may be expected to give consideration to the problem of removing the existing inequities between retired pay of officers who served in World War I under the Pay Readjustment Act of 1942. It should be noted that the only provision of the latter Act which was not repealed by the Career Compensation Act of 1949 is the fourth paragraph of sec. 15, which Sen. McFarland's bill proposes to amend so as to give to those retired prior to 1 June 1942 the same opportunities with regard to the computation of their retired pay as was extended to those who were retired after 1 June 1942.

This Association has made careful study of the principles enunciated in the Career Compensation Act of 1949 and is faced with the recognition that the new Act has entirely done away with the principle of awarding 75% of active base pay as the general basis for retirement for other than 30 years of service or at least 75% of physical disability. However, many officers with less service have received greater retired pay than others with more service as the result of the discrimination which Sen. McFarland's bill proposes to remove.

Our Association will request the opportunity to express its views for and in behalf of those affected at such time as hearings on S. 577 are scheduled.

ADJUSTMENT OF RETIRED PAY—At the request of the Navy Department, Sen. Tydings introduced S. 2145 to provide for equitable adjustment of retired pay for certain Naval officers who served in World War II. Of the four classes of officers coming within the provision, only one was not apparently covered by the provision of the Career Compensation Act of 1949. That class consists of lieutenants of the Navy retired under any provision of law who had completed not less than 21 years of service before retirement and who had Naval service prior to 12 November 1918 as midshipmen at the Naval Academy. It is also contemplated to include in such proposed amendment lieutenants of the Navy in the same category who had Naval service prior to 12 November 1918 as temporary officers, as there appears to be a small group of such officers who are not affected by the provisions of the Career Compensation Act of 1949. Appropriate recommendations to correct that omission will be made to the Department of Defense and to the Congress.

BATTLEFIELD PROMOTIONS—Bills have been introduced in both the Senate and House to authorize the extension of officer retirement benefits to certain persons who, while serving as enlisted men in the Army of the United States during World War II, were given battlefield promotions to officer grades and, while serving as such were incapacitated for active service as a result of enemy action. S. 2559 was passed by the Senate and referred to the House Armed Services Committee, where it is under consideration along with a companion bill, H.R. 6276. If enacted, that legislation will benefit certain deserving enlisted men and place them in the classification of officers for retirement benefits. The Army testified in favor of the bill before the Senate Armed Services Committee. It is anticipated that measure will receive early consideration and likewise be reported favorably by the House Committee and passed by the House.

DISPENSARY TREATMENT AND HOSPITALIZATION—Bills H.R. 1181 and S. 820 presently pending, provide dispensary treatment and hospitalization in Army and Navy hospitals for retired personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. They propose to make available reciprocal dispensary treatment and hospitalization for retired personnel. That proposal has great merit for without statutory authorization retired personnel are frequently deprived of necessary medical attention merely by virtue of their retired residences being removed from locations where those facilities of their particular branch of service are situated.

OTHER ITEMS—Those include the subjects of general revision of the retirement laws, coupled with the establishment of a survivors' benefit plan, both of which Rep. Vinson stated on the floor of the House, during consideration of the Career Compensation Act of 1949, would later be brought up for deliberation by his Committee. Our membership is aware of the active interest of the Association in the subject of survivorship benefits which has been extensively covered in former issues of the Bulletin. Development in those fields will be closely followed when those subjects are actually considered and appropriate recommendations will be made.

Furthermore there is always the question of income tax exclusion and changing tax laws as affecting retired pay, and other long-range projects.

Also, it must be realized that, despite the great attention which was given by the Congress during consideration of the Career Compensation Act of 1949, it will be found necessary from time to time to amend that law. There are already indications that amendments will be necessary. It is our understanding that amendments will be offered to the Officer Personnel Act of 1947, and a consolidation of retirement laws is under study by the Department of Defense.

In our 4th Quarter 1949 Bulletin the membership's attention was invited to the fact that Comptroller General's decision B-85471 dated 10 August 1949, held that Navy-Marine Corps officers who were retired in advanced ranks of captain-colonel and below, by reason of commendations for gallantry in action, were not entitled to recall in such higher ranks, but in the rank to which they would otherwise have been entitled.

Feeling that the decision referred to does not accord with the intended purpose of sec. 412 (a), Officer Personnel Act

of 1947, to which it was directed, our President has addressed a letter to the Secretary of the Navy, asking that he request a reconsideration by the Comptroller General on the following grounds:

(a) Advancement in rank of Navy-Marine Corps officers specially commended by the head of the executive department under whose jurisdiction they served is specifically provided for in sec. 412 (a), Officer Personnel Act of 1947. The first proviso of that section vests in such department head the authority, within his discretion, to recall officers above captain-colonel ranks in the Navy and Marine Corps to active duty either in the rank in which they would otherwise have been retired or in the rank to which advanced on the retired list.

(b) Prior to enactment of that amendment it was generally understood that existing laws entitled all officers in retired status, including those of flag rank, in the event of restoration to active duty to be recalled in such higher ranks held by them on the retired lists.

(c) When the first proviso of sec. 412 (a), Officer Personnel Act of 1947 was recommended by the Senate Armed Services Committee in Senate Report 609 (80th Congress, 1st Session), it was stated: "(d) Title IV of the bill was amended to make it clear that the repeal of the Navy's authority to advance officers on the retired roll who had received commendations for gallantry in action did not take away any rights which had been earned under the present law. The amendment, while lengthy, is largely of a clarifying nature and makes it clear that all officers, either Regular or Reserve, who have earned this right will be advanced when retired, based either on their temporary or permanent ranks, and when ordered back to active duty will be recalled in the rank to which advanced, with the exception that flag officers will come back in such higher rank at the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy. The section was further clarified to make sure that no increased retired pay be paid anyone by virtue of the provisions of this section."

(d) It would therefore appear that the above mentioned Comptroller General's decision is not consistent with prior laws authorizing promotions on the retired lists for gallantry in action, nor with the actual practice in the past with regard to the restoration of retired officers to active duty under such laws. It would further appear that the Comptroller General's decision does not accord either with the language of sec. 412 (a), the necessity for the adoption of its first proviso, or the legislative history of that provision.

The above list, of course, cannot be regarded as all inclusive of those legislative subjects, pending or projected, bearing upon retired status. Nonetheless, it is thought to be sufficiently comprehensive to cover the situation at this writing. Principally, it is indicative of the manner in which the Retired Officers Association will exert its best efforts toward effective collective representation of the affairs of retired officers, generally.

THE ASSOCIATION'S NEED FOR NEW MEMBERS

While our present membership now totals over 16,000 and in the opinion of some might appear to be adequate for its purposes and objectives, such is not the case. We need more members.

Some retired officers feel there is no reason for them to join the Retired Officers Association. After all, they speculate, it is a progressive organization which is effective in many ways toward advancing new and safeguarding old benefits and interests that go to make retired status a more secure and happier one. Therefore, they argue, why not enjoy the fruits of its labors without actually participating in or lending support of them?

There can be only one answer to those who believe along that line. If all so believed, there would be no representation in behalf of the views and desires of retired officers generally, and there would be no focal point to which either they or their survivors and dependents could look for relief in times of stress.

Matters of great importance to them, personally, which might well similarly affect others in like circumstances, would have to be handled individually, rather than collectively as is done through the Association. But let it be remembered that individual efforts are both time-consuming and costly. Furthermore this is an age of organization, and in organization there is strength.

Now why should all retired officers belong to this Association? To put it in the language of an average member: "It is certainly gratifying to know that we have such a sincere and hard-working organization doing a most effective job in the best interests of all retired officers."

In order to increase our effectiveness, we must have a continuing steady growth in membership. Not only must we replace losses due to normal attrition, but we must have new blood to stimulate further progress.

Progress in our work as in any other endeavor does not come easily, nor can it be possible without a well-organized and hard-working staff. In our up-hill pull to accomplish the things that are just, right and deserving for retired officers, we further must have intelligent teamwork and coordination of effort.

We maintain a small but competent staff for the purpose of exercising the affairs of the Association. That staff is composed of personnel who are familiar with the inequities and injustices which creep into those situations affecting retired status, and what should be done to correct them. They are familiar also with the procedures necessary to present, in a proper manner, the problems of retired officers to the several departments and committees of Congress having jurisdiction over them.

No claim is made, nor inferred, that we gain our objectives simply by asking. Military men are aware that major objectives are not so won. But, with a background of military training and experience, we are well schooled in the art of "staying with it" until a goal is reached.

By the same token, however, our team must have that spirit of morale—or support, if you will—which comes from those who wear its colors. That, of course, is one point, but there is the additional and even more important consideration that it is the aggregate of the combined financial assistance of all in the form of the small annual dues which makes it possible to maintain an adequate staff, without which there could be no progress.

There is nothing new or novel in this request. We have made it many times previously and there has been heartwarming response, but may we ask again that all our members try to get others to join and thus lend our Association the dignity and, consequently, the prestige of representing the vast majority of those carried on the entire retired lists.

CREDIT FOR SERVICE OF PERSONNEL OF THE FORMER BUREAU OF MARINE INSPECTION AND NAVIGATION AND BUREAU OF CUSTOMS WHO WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE COAST GUARD

H.R. 1824 which, upon approval on 27 September 1949, became Public Law 308, 81st Congress, amends sec. 444 (f) of the Act of 4 August 1949, and is effective 1 November 1949, provides as follows:

"In computing length of service for purposes of retirement of personnel of the former Bureau of Marine Inspection & Navigation and Bureau of Customs transferred from those bureaus to the Coast Guard by Executive Order 9083 and by

Reorganization Plan Numbered 3, effective 16 July 1946, who are commissioned, appointed, or enlisted, there shall be included, in addition to all service now or hereafter creditable by law, all service as a civilian employee of the United States within the purview of sections 691, 693, 698, 707, 709-715, 716-719, 720-725, 727-729, 730, 731, and 733 of title 5; and for all purposes of pay, so much of the service as was rendered as a civilian employee in the former Bureau of Marine Inspection & Navigation (including its predecessors, the Bureau of Navigation and the Steamboat Inspection Service), in the Bureau of Customs and in the Coast Guard. Such service for both retirement and pay purposes shall be classified as commissioned, warrant, or enlisted, depending upon which status the person assumes upon his entry into the Regular Coast Guard. Service covering the same period shall not be counted more than once."

The above quoted provision confers upon personnel of the former Bureau of Marine Inspection & Navigation and Bureau of Customs, who were transferred to the Coast Guard, rights substantially comparable to those authorized for personnel of the former Lighthouse Service, as contained in Public Law 761, 80th Congress.

In the implementation of the subject Act, prompt and automatic determination will be made by Coast Guard Headquarters as to whom the instant benefits apply.

No action on the part of individuals is required, as a checking of the records is already in progress. New statements of service will be issued at the earliest practicable date to assist disbursing officers in computing longevity for the purpose of pay in the Coast Guard for those affected by its provisions.

TERMINAL LEAVE PAY FOR CERTAIN NAVY AND MARINE CORPS OFFICERS

Granting of terminal leave for officers who were separated from the Naval or Marine Corps Reserve separated therefrom after 8 September 1939 to accept commissions as regular members of those services was accomplished by the passage of H.R. 540, now Public Law 314, 81st Congress, 1st Session, approved 5 October 1949.

The instant Act provides that such officers who were on active duty on 1 September 1946, and were deprived of leave credit solely because of its having been accumulated prior to accepting commissions in the Regular Navy or Marine Corps, shall have such leave remain to their credit to the same extent as if they had not been separated from Reserve status.

Leave restored pursuant to that Act, which accrued prior to 1 September 1946, shall be treated as having been to their credit on 31 August 1946, and shall be compensated for in the manner prescribed by the Armed Forces Leave Act of 1946, as amended, if application therefor is made within one year after the effective date of the Act.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DIVIDENDS

Announcement has been made by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue that dividends shortly to be paid by the Veterans Administration on National Service Life Insurance (World War II) are not subject to income tax. That same exception also applies with respect to dividends recently paid by the Veterans Administration on Government Life Insurance (World War I). Consequently, the amounts of such dividends received should not be reported in income tax returns.

Following is the formula to be used in computing individual dividend payments, based upon age at time the insurance was taken out and number of months it has been in effect up to 1948, less any periods the policy was lapsed:

Under 40 years	55c per month per $1,000
41-45 years	52c down to 40c
46-50 years	37c down to 25c
51-54 years	24c down to 21c
55 years and over	20c per month per $1,000

OPENING FOR SERVICE ACADEMY GRADUATE IN THE INSURANCE FIELD

The Franklin Life Insurance Company is seeking a service academy graduate to act as its agent in the sale of life insurance to personnel serving at various military installations in Key West.

Anyone interested should communicate with Mr. H. S. Holcomb, District Manager, Franklin Life Insurance Company, P.O. Box 569, Key West, Florida, who will gladly furnish full details upon request.

BIENNIAL CONVENTION NOTES

Place and Date of Meeting—The next biennial convention of the Association will be held at the Mayflower Hotel in the City of Washington on Friday, 17 February 1950. The meeting will be called to order at 0900.

Large Attendance Desired—We hope to make that convention an outstanding success, and urge our members to make every effort to attend.

Resolutions Committee—Brigadier General Merritt B. Curtis, USMC, Retired, has been appointed Chairman of the Resolutions Committee for the convention. General Curtis' committee will consider all resolutions brought before it.

Submission of Resolutions—It is desired that resolutions be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee not later than 1 January 1950, and should be mailed to National Headquarters, 1600 20th Street N.W., Washington 9, D. C., prior to that date.

Distribution of Resolutions Approved—Following a final meeting of the Resolutions Committee at National Headquarters, 1000, Monday, 13 February 1950, all approved resolutions will be printed for distribution. Members desiring copies may obtain them at National Headquarters 48 hours before the convention or on the convention floor.

Convention Luncheon—A luncheon in the Mayflower Hotel is planned at about 1230 the day of the convention. Details as to acceptance and cost will be later announced.

Members Desiring Hotel Accommodations—Out-of-town members who may wish hotel accommodations in Washington at the time of the convention should reserve them individually well in advance of the scheduled date.

APPOINTMENTS TO SERVICE ACADEMIES

All retired officers are requested to invite the attention of qualified young men who are interested in and desirous of obtaining appointments to the U. S. Military Academy at West Point, New York; the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland; or the U. S. Coast Guard Academy, New London, Connecticut, to address inquiries promptly for detailed particulars, as follows:

U. S. Military Academy—write the Adjutant General, Department of the Army, Washington 25, D. C., or contact their Senator or Congressman. Next examination date, 7 March 1950.

U. S. Naval Academy—write the Chief of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C., or contact their Senator or Congressman. Next examination date, 19 April 1950.

U. S. Coast Guard Academy—write the Commandant (PTP), U. S. Coast Guard, Washington 25, D. C. Appointment to the Coast Guard Academy is based solely on competitive examination. Next examinations to be held 20-21 February 1950.

As has been reported previously, this Association is prepared, in connection with its Scholarship Program, to offer financial assistance, through loans, to sons of retired officers (living or deceased) who have met all requirements for appointment to a service academy, but whose economic situation is such that they are unable to provide the necessary deposit on entrance.

MEMBER SERVICE

DONALD D. DAVIS, *Secretary-Treasurer*

"How do I go about converting my NSLI policy and what forms are necessary?"

"Is my wife eligible for widow's pension in the event of my death by reason of my service from November 1917 to April 1921?" "To whom should I write concerning a burial plot in Arlington Cemetery?" "I have a claim pending before the General Accounting Office, can the Association assist in expediting payment?"

During the course of a single month the untold number of questions like those above—which our more than 16,000 members ask—bid fair to compete with the most elaborate of quiz shows.

A review of the quantity and scope of the inquiries received at National Headquarters would seem a nightmare to the ordinary executive skilled in handling large volumes of correspondence dealing with varied technical subjects.

But our able and efficient Secretary-Treasurer, who handles this important phase of member service, takes it all in stride. Trained in the procedures necessary to get in touch with the right people with the right answers, he provides the writer with the information he seeks, in many instances, by return mail.

Pleasant, cooperative and highly capable, Don Davis is indeed a "friend in need" to the hundreds of members who look to us for help in their problems. Whether the question be a simple or a complicated one makes no difference. To each he gives the same careful attention, the same friendly touch.

Though only one member of our small Staff, it is the coordinated effort of all which provides a wide variety of worthwhile services to members. In this manner we are daily giving practical demonstration of the increasing need for, as well as the value of, this Association to all retired officers.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors for the 3rd quarter, which had been postponed from July, was held at the Army & Navy Club in Washington on Friday, 23 September 1949. Attendance was excellent with all but six members present. The meeting was highlighted by an interesting talk given by Major General Richard E. Nugent, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, United States Air Force. General Nugent's remarks are published elsewhere in this issue.

The business meeting covered the submission of the variously required reports giving an account of the Association's activities and development since the date the Board was previously assembled.

Thereafter, the Directors acting as the Board of Governors, were informed regarding the status of the Association's Scholarship Program, pointing out that, as of 22 September 1949, a total of $1,319.50 had been voluntarily subscribed to assist in financing, through loans, the college education of worthy and needy sons and daughters of retired officers (living or deceased). Hope was expressed that applications for aid under that plan may be forthcoming, in order that actual awards may soon be made in implementation of the program.

ADDRESS OF MAJOR GENERAL RICHARD E. NUGENT UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Below noted is text of remarks delivered by Major General Richard E. Nugent, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, United States Air Force, at the luncheon meeting of the Board of Directors at the Army & Navy Club in Washington on 23 September 1949:

I believe that it is customary at luncheons such as this for those in my position to reward (and I use the word advisedly) the gathering with a few remarks.

But before I go on, may I express my sincere pleasure to Admiral Hamlet and to all of you for your invitation to be with you today. This has been a most delightful occasion. Nothing beats comradeship and good food. We have certainly had both today. I suppose you have noticed that I brought along another Air Force officer. Thought I might need a little moral support.

Looking through some of your Bulletins, I noticed that there was one Air Force retired officer, General Spaatz, among your officers and Board of Directors, and so I felt that I wouldn't be too much like *that child* at the family reunion. But Commander Bailey informed me that General Spaatz would be in New England today, entering his daughter in college. It was then that I asked could I bring the Major along. Guess Bailey understood, because he told me it would be all right.

Seriously though, I do have something to say to you other than expressing my thanks and pleasure at being here.

We of the Air Force, as you know, have just passed the second anniversary of our autonomy. The National Security Act of 1947 recognized that the Air Force had come of age and was entitled to a voice in the Defense Councils of our country. Today, we stand as a younger brother of the older services, the Army and the Navy.

In the assumption and the exercising of the responsibilities of an independent service, we have sometimes been accused of brashness. Maybe, on occasion, we have appeared to be overly zealous in our fervent desire to accomplish that which we believed was our obligation to our country. But I assure you that there is no intent on the part of the leaders of the Air Force to assume or encroach upon the responsibilities of our brother services in their respective fields.

The Air Force is striving today, conscientiously, earnestly, unceasingly to give the United States full value for the dollar received. We have learned much from the ground work laid by you men. We still have much to learn. Problems which the Army and Navy have been solving for years have thrust themselves suddenly upon us. Problems of procurement, promotion, personal welfare, budgeting, manning, assignments; all these and many more must be resolved. Within the over-all policies established by the Secretary of Defense, we must develop policies which solve our problems and, in the final analysis, we must apply those policies firmly and equitably. We must determine our own destiny.

Most of you here today have helped guide the destinies of the Armed Services for many years. I, among many others, am helping in some small way to guide the destiny of the Air Force. If, in the not too far distant future, I am fortunate enough to be able to sit back and view the results of our work objectively as you now do, and feel that we have been as successful as you have been in attaining that to which we have directed our life's work, I shall be more than satisfied.

THE POWER OF FAITH

All too frequently, when things appear hopeless, many of us are prone to forget the power of Faith. "Faith," some might ask, "What is Faith?"

It is that which affords comfort to the troubled and hope to those in despair. In a practical sense, it is belief and trust in the wonders of Divine Providence.

We believe in ourselves, we trust in ourselves, hence, it follows, we have faith in ourselves. But what about the circumstances and conditions in which we find ourselves? Are we to be unbelieving and distrustful concerning them? Do we lack the faith to meet and overcome difficult situations? Certainly not!

Faith was expressed in the preceding issue of the Bulletin that the Career Compensation Act of 1949 would become law.

The subject of faith is not brought up here in support of a prediction come true. It is mentioned solely that our members may understand the strength of courage which sustained us throughout a long drawn-out siege, principally because we had faith in those who had charge of that all-important legislation—a measure necessary to raise the morale of our uniformed services to the standard required for utmost efficiency and effectiveness.

Our faith would not have altered nor our spirit lessened had we been wrong, for we, too, have the ability to take a temporary setback, but final defeat—NEVER!

Mindful of the great trust placed in us, we will strive constantly to justify the continued faith of our members and, to that end, we shall ever be true.

Not if I won or lost,
Will ever matter most:
But rather how I bore the battle through.

Not if my might prevailed,
But that my heart ne'er failed:
Not that I triumphed,
But that I was true.

TWO OUTSTANDING MILITARY LEADERS BECOME MEMBERS

Among the many whom we welcome as new members during the past several months, it is a particular pleasure to extend greetings to General Alexander A. Vandergrift, USMC, Retired, and Lieutenant General Willard S. Paul, USA, Retired.

General Vandergrift's leading of the First Marine Division in the assault landings, seizure and holding of Guadalcanal and the smaller islands of Tulagi, Gavutu and Tanambogo in the Solomons during the initial stage of our offensive in the Pacific was one highlight of a distinguished career of more than 40 years in the Marine Corps which was climaxed by his appointment as Commandant of that Service on 1 January 1944. He expressed in the following words a lesson he learned which, when put into actual practice, exploded the theory of superman adversaries, "that indefinable discipline is a factor without which the best equipped armed force is mediocre, and with which a smaller force can win."

General Paul is another outstanding military commander who performed exceptionally meritorious service in positions of great responsibility. It was the 26th Infantry (Yankee) Division which he directed in the European Theatre that forced a strong, stubborn and battle-wise foe to withdraw from defensive positions around the Maginot Line, its last key terrain in France. Throughout his service career of more than 30 years, he demonstrated by his own example that calm, capable leadership can overcome even the most difficult obstacles. At the time of his retirement in 1948, he was Director of Personnel and Administration, Army General Staff in Washington.

EXCHANGE SERVICES—ARMY & AIR FORCE

Regulations issued jointly by the Army & Air Force on 3 October 1949 (SR 60-10-1; AFR 67-33) establish the authorized patrons, activities and sales in Exchange Stores operated by those Services.

Full privileges to those facilities are extended to retired personnel of the regular and reserve components of all the uniformed services, as well as to the widows of such personnel.

Before purchases can be made, however, it will be necessary for the eligible person to present authentic evidence of his or her service connection and request an exchange identification card which is issued and valid only at the exchange service where application is made.

ATTENTION INACTIVE NAVY RETIRED OFFICERS

We have been requested by the Bureau of Naval Personnel to announce that there is urgent need for a number of inactive Navy retired officers of lieutenant (j.g.) rank and above who may wish to volunteer their services to administer the Oath of Allegiance to Naval Reserve enlistees at various Navy recruiting stations throughout the country where active duty officers are not available.

Inactive Navy retired officers of the ranks indicated, who may find it convenient to devote a portion of their time on a voluntary basis, without pay, toward development of the Naval Reserve Enlistment Program, will aid materially toward the success of that important project and, incidentally, assist greatly in providing adequate personnel to meet Naval requirements in Reserve capacities.

Those interested in volunteering their services, under the conditions above noted, should contact their local recruiting officer, or write to the Chief of Naval Personnel, Navy Department, Washington 25, D. C.—Attention: Head of Recruiting Branch, for further particulars.

"BRASS HATS"

"Brass hats" are regarded by some as top ranking military officers who have not necessarily experienced the hardships of war. Yet there is the general who spent eighteen months in one of the toughest assignments in the Army, where both climate and terrain seemed to be conspiring against him. Oblivious of those difficulties he did a ten-year job of defense preparation in a year and a half. Due largely to his efforts the Northwest was saved from invasion. Then he was ordered to one of the hardest commands in the Pacific. There he was killed in action.

Another among those who are ordinarily termed "brass hats" was a famed carrier task force commander in the Pacific. He died from sheer exhaustion upon reaching his home after the close of the war.

Take also the case of the general who led the attack on Normandy. He was killed in action by a barrage from our own planes.

Still another was an admiral killed in action on the bridge of his flagship during a night engagement with a superior enemy force in the Pacific.

There was also the general who flew back to Europe from a mission to Washington on a Christmas day to rejoin his men, completely surrounded at Bastogne. His reply, you will recall, to a demand for surrender was simply "Nuts!"

Many other cases could be cited, but those above given clearly serve to illustrate the type of men called "brass hats."

Origin of the term "brass hats" is of little consequence to us, but we do decry its use as an unsavory reference to those who have achieved success by way of hard earned and merited advancements to high positions in our military services.

Literally the "hat," to which derisive reference is made when speaking of "brass hats," is of gold, a precious metal.

"Brass," in colloquial usage, normally connotes something gaudy and brazen. Neither of those attributes properly apply to our military leaders, past or present.

Real success in anything American is not won by those lacking in human qualities. It is those who possess the ability to evaluate and to coordinate the spirit, the will and the force of others who qualify as leaders in our military services. Such characteristics are prerequisites to selection for high command.

Practically all of our generals and admirals hold row upon row of medals, decorations and citations indicating performance of duty far above and beyond required limits. Yet it is doubted that any one of them would fail to be embarrassed if hailed as a hero. As a matter of fact, to themselves they are humble, modest and conscientious men, inspired by a love and a desire to make America safe and strong for Americans.

Outstanding men of high principle who give freely of their all to develop and maintain an efficient and effective National Defense normally rise above noisy condemnation. Nonetheless, such expressions of ridicule and disdain are poor tribute to an unselfish devotion and cannot help but wound the pride and sensitivities of men who have been, and may again be, called upon to defend our country but are defenseless when subjected to unwarranted personal attack.

Fortunately, it is the rare exception rather than the rule for a military leader to abuse his trust. When there has been dereliction of public confidence, we hold no brief for the offender.

In our opinion, however, the nation which owes its very existence to the fearless courage of its military leaders, as well as those whom they led in the face of foreign aggression, might show a finer sense of respect and appreciation to those truly public servants who follow a noble profession and discharge it to the best of our American tradition.

We therefore say, abolish the degrading term "brass," and substitute therefor the term gold. Certainly those who use "brass hats" so indiscriminately might easily find one more befitting those upon whom they, too, may look for future national security.

AN AUTHORITY ON THE PANAMA CANAL BECOMES MEMBER

Among the many whom we are privileged to welcome as new members is Captain Miles P. DuVal, USN, Retired, a recognized contemporary authority on the Panama Canal.

Captain DuVal's greatest constructive work transcended the usual confines of naval duties. Although following routine assignments both ashore and afloat, leading to ultimate command, his thoughts and ambitions from an early stage were focused on the Panama Canal as an essential component of sea power.

His enthusiastic interest in that subject, closely related as it is to our national defense, finally led to the detail in 1941 as Captain of the Port, Balboa, Canal Zone, in which office he served until 1944. In that capacity he was in charge of marine operations of the Pacific terminus of the canal during the critical period of the last war.

During his tour at Balboa, Captain DuVal made intensive studies of marine accidents in the Panama Canal as well as the operational problems of that famed waterway. From those observations and studies he developed in 1943 the first comprehensive plan for the future Panama Canal, based upon marine experience, known as the Terminal Lake Plan, which has prompted widespread discussions of the merits of the various plans proposed for improving the Panama Canal and led to an official re-examination of the entire Isthmian question.

The author of two books: (1) *Cadiz to Cathay* telling of the long diplomatic struggle for the Panama Canal; and (2) *The Mountain Will Move* describing the building of the canal, both published by the Stanford University Press, he is now writing a third to complete a Trilogy on the Panama Canal.

In recognition of his broad knowledge of the Panama Canal, Captain DuVal was designated as the Panama Canal Liaison Officer and Coordinator of Modernization Studies of the Navy Department in Washington from 1946 to 1949, during which time he assisted other agencies of the Government in evaluating the proposals for alterations in the canal necessary to meet the demands imposed by advanced ship designing and future operational requirements.

HISTORY OF THE COAST GUARD

Captain Stephen H. Evans, USCG, recently completed the only comprehensive and definitive history of the Coast Guard ever published.

His book should be readily received by all who have an interest in that Service, in naval history, in the evolution of federal agencies, or in America's past and future on the seas.

In that volume the author projects the Coast Guard against the background of economic, political and technological factors which have produced it. By analyzing the curve of the Coast Guard's development as a federal agency with many diverse but nonetheless related functions, that complex service is defined in simple formula, fixing its position in the federal government as "the principal federal agency for maritime law enforcement and marine safety . . . . a part of the Armed Forces of the United States."

Though ending at 1915, a brief postscript ties in the present to the past. Copies are available through the United States Naval Institute, Annapolis, Md., or local book stores at $5. each.

MEMBERSHIP BREAKDOWN AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1949

Army	7,283
Navy	5,508
Air Force	1,508
Marine Corps	767
Coast Guard	999
Coast & Geodetic Survey	45
Public Health Service	46
Total	16,156
Life Members (Non-dues-paying status)	979
Life Members (Dues-paying-status)	1,135
Members	7,812
Reserve Members	6,230
Total	16,156

To RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,
1600 Twentieth St., N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

Date .....

Gentlemen:—

You may enroll me as a member of the Retired Officers Association. Inclosed is check for $5.00.

Entrance fee	$1.00	*Fifty cents of which is for subscription to Association Bulletin.*
Annual dues	4.00	
	$5.00	

Name .....
(Please Print)

Rank and Service .....

Mailing Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

C.W.O. C.C.W., USMC, Ret.—By chance I picked up a copy of the Retired Officers Association Bulletin and was amazed at the work it is doing. I immediately joined and wish I had done so two years ago when I retired. If only other retired officers who are not members could see the Bulletin, I am sure they, too, would join. My loyalty is with the Association.

Capt. J.S.S., USA, Ret.—Without your most able and timely intervention in my behalf settlement of that claim would be in the vague future instead of this early date. Please accept my sincere thanks for your prompt and effective action.

Lieut. H.S., USN, Ret.—Thank you very much for the ample and comprehensive information you gave me in your recent letter concerning Service legislation, which I requested. I hope all eligibles will realize the constructive and protective features of the Association and become members to increase its efficient functioning.

Col. M.B.M., AUS, Ret.—I consider this my most noteworthy post-war membership. Keep up the good work. Your Bulletins are informative and greatly appreciated.

Med. Director A. J. McL., USPHS, Ret.—It is a source of regret with me that so few retired officers of my Service are members. All should belong.

Lt.-Comdr. T. E. S., USCG, Ret.—A few lines to say that I find the Bulletins most interesting and they offer a great deal of valuable information that would otherwise be hard to get.

Lt.-Col. L.T.W., USAF, Ret.—I am very grateful for the time and effort spent in answering my questions so thoroughly. Your letter is in keeping with complete satisfaction I have received in the past when I have turned to you for information.

Comdr. E.E.H., USNR, Ret.—Each issue of the Bulletin is welcomed and I would like to say that the work being done by the Association is highly commendable and most worthwhile.

The wife of a retired officer writes—Hearty congratulations to the Association for its past successes and every good wish for its future. My husband and I find great comfort and satisfaction in the thought that we have an efficient organization to look after our interests, particularly at a time when there is so little we can do for ourselves.

ARMED FORCES DAY

President Truman has approved a recommendation of Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson designating the third Saturday in May as "ARMED FORCES DAY," supplanting former observances of the following Service Days: Army Day, 6 April; Navy Day, 27 October; and Air Force Day, 18 September.

Selection of the joint date, upon which Secretary Johnson's recommendation was based, was made by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

A bill will shortly be introduced in Congress designating the third Saturday in May as Armed Forces Day and rescinding prior legislation relating to other Service Days.

NOTES TO MEMBERS

Following is the regularly scheduled publication of the Bulletin: 1st Quarter, 15 December; 2nd Quarter, 15 March; 3rd Quarter, 15 June; 5th Quarter, 15 September. Any member failing to receive his copy through normal distribution should write us and we will promptly furnish.

We are constantly striving to improve the scope and substance of the Bulletin. Suggestions from members will be appreciated.

Greetings and welcome are extended to all new members and a cordial invitation to join is extended to all those eligible for membership.

Members are urged to keep us advised of any change of address since this is our only means of keeping them informed of our activities. In reporting such changes, please furnish old and new addresses so that our records may be properly corrected.

In communicating with National Headquarters, members are requested not to address individuals as to do so might delay reply. Letters to "Retired Officers Association" will be routed to the staff member charged with handling the particular problem.

Once a member, it is desired that application for membership blanks be not used in transmitting annual dues.

Do you have one of our colorful lapel rosettes, signifying membership in the Association, for wear with civilian clothing? If not, the Secretary can supply you with one or more of these attractive decorations at the nominal charge of 50c each.

All members are urged to encourage others who do not belong to join the Association. We will gladly furnish a copy of the Bulletin to any non-member interested in our activities. Mail such requests to—Retired Officers Association, 1600 20th Street N. W., Washington 9, D. C.

O God! Give us real "Peace on earth" once more,
Let frosty stillness fill the fragrant air,
While ivory clouds go scudding in the sky,
To make a lovely picture everywhere.

AND AGAIN WE SAY—

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

RETIRED OFFICERS ASSOCIATION BULLETIN
1600 Twentieth Street, N.W.
Washington 9, D. C.

Entered as second class matter, May 2, 1945, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.